



City of West Haven, Connecticut
Assessors Office
355 Main St.
West Haven, Ct. 06516
203-937-3515

March 16, 2016

Re: Opposition to GB 5047-An act concerning exemptions under the property tax

Dear members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I would like to express my strong opposition to GB 5407, An Act Concerning Exemptions under Property Tax.

I write this testimony in opposition of the above act for several reasons:

1. The City of West Haven would potentially exempt **more than half** of the 2300 personal property accounts. (appr. 66%)
2. The loss of more than 200,000 in revenue **NOT** including new businesses that will be created from new development in The City of West Haven.
3. We will have to work with the software vendor(s) to make sure bills are not generated for the accounts that are approved for exemption.
4. I am sure the Assessor's Office will have many of the businesses under 10,000 not filing a declaration therefore the Assessors will estimate an assessment for failure to file a declaration. The Assessor's Office will receive more than the usual sum of calls and emails when increase notices go out after the grand list is finalized and when bills are sent out. This will create much more work for the Board of Assessment Appeals, Assessors and Assessor staff.
5. One **may think** this will lessen the Assessors workload however; the Assessor's Office still must send a declaration to all business owners and process it, including the need to audit these businesses, as taxpayers will want to fall under the 10,000 threshold.

I do not believe this exemption will be fair and equitable.

Ann Marie Gradoia, West Haven Assessor